

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A seed tape ~~(1)~~ including successively arranged germinating units ~~(1a, 1b, 1c)~~, and which further includes at least one carrier strip ~~(2,4)~~ made of polylactide (PLA) as well as at least one layer ~~(3)~~ of biodegradable, gas-permeable material which is flexible and non-woven and arranged on said carrier strip, whereby each germinating unit ~~(1a, 1b, 1c)~~ includes a mixture of carrier ~~(7)~~, at least one additive ~~(8)~~ which is water-absorbing and one or more seeds ~~(10)~~, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the layer ~~(3)~~ of biodegradable, gas-permeable material ~~which~~ is flexible and non-woven, and is made of polylactide (PLA) or a material including said polylactide, or is made of rayon, viscose or polylactide plus starch.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that super absorbing polymer (SAP) grains or SAP fibres ~~(8)~~ are arranged around and adjacent the seed ~~(10)~~, said SAP grains or SAP fibres being retained by means of an adhesive effect resulting from an ultrasound or heat treatment of the non-woven material.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended) A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised~~
characterized in that the non-woven PLA material (3) presents a needle structure and is structured as
a 10 sandwich with three crossed layers, where the middle layer includes relatively thin fibres and
the two outer layers include fibres being thicker than the fibres of the middle layer.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 3, in which the SAP grains or
SAP fibres (8) are retained adjacent the seed (10), ~~characterised~~ characterized in that said
grains or fibres are 15 retained by being glued onto the non-woven layer (3) by means of
biodegradable natural glue, such as a starch, gelatine or sugar-based glue.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised~~
characterized in that each germinating unit (1a, 1b, 1c) is delimited by two spaced transverse
spot or line or line weldings (16), and that at least two relatively short auxiliary weldings
(17) are provided between the spot or line weldings (16), said auxiliary weldings projecting
5 inwards from the side edges (18) of each seed tape and being of a length (a); of 0.05 to
0.20 times the width (b) of the seed tape.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterised~~
characterized in that the spot or line weldings are provided at a temperature of 70 to 110°C.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised~~
characterized in that the fibres of each non-woven layer (3) are of a length of 5 to 9 cm.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the biodegradable, gas-permeable, flexible, non-woven layer (3) is formed by a row of pockets (3') of non-woven polylactide (PLA) fastened to the carrier strip (2') at an equidistant distance, and where each pocket includes a seed.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the flexible non-woven PLA layer (3) is of a weight of 10 to 40 g/m².

Claim 12 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, and where the seeds are sugar beet seeds, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that each germinating unit (1a, 1b, 1c) is delimited by a circumferential welded seam (26), which is locally interrupted in order to provide an opening (27) through which radicles and seedlings can advance.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that that it contains ~~paper-like~~ pieces (21a, 23, 27a) produced by placing cellulose fibres, SAP-crystals (8) and grains of carrier (7) and adjuvants (9) on the surface of a suction cylinder by means of air.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the adjuvants (9) are placed in a small capsule (22) in each germinating unit (1a, 1b, 1c).

Claim 15 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised~~

characterized in that the flexible non-woven PLA-layer (3) presents a suction capacity of 0 to 30 mm.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1,
~~e-h-a-r-a-c-t-e-r-i-s-e-d~~ characterized in that the water-absorbing additive or additives (8),
~~including SAP~~ include a super absorbing polymer (SAP), and adjuvants (9) including pesticides, and
can be absorbed in or adhered to a blotting paper piece (27) provided with a plastic coating, for a slow
release of additive and/or adjuvant, said blotting paper piece (27) being placed inside each germinating
unit (1a, 1b, 1c) and resulting from a cutting off from a high speed-produced roll of blotting paper at 500
m/min, where the above water-absorbing additive (8) and adjuvant (9), if any, are ~~sucked~~ absorbed
into or glued onto said blotting paper piece.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, wherein the layer (3) is
locally interrupted a short distance along the seed tape, each germinating unit (1a, 1b, 1c) ~~includes~~
including an adjuvant (9), ~~and each seed tape is cut into separate germinating units prior to the~~
~~irrigation and/or the bedding out.~~

Claim 18 (previously presented): A seed tape according to claim 15 wherein the suction
capacity is 5 to 15 mm.